

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
2 a network computer (NC) client booting from a boot image provided by an NC
3 server, the boot image including information identifying the location of
4 one or more user system volumes on the NC server, the one or more user
5 system volumes containing operating system software; and
6 in response to an attempt to modify the contents of the one or more user system
7 volumes, the NC client causing information identifying a modification
8 associated with the attempt to be recorded on the NC server separate from
9 the one or more user system volumes in a shadow system volume storage
10 area associated with the NC client.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 transmitting information identifying a user of the NC client to the NC server;
3 receiving information identifying the user's desktop environment preferences
4 from the NC server; and
5 customizing a desktop environment of the NC client in accordance with the user's
6 desktop environment preferences.
- 1 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more system
2 volumes are presented to the NC client as a split operating system including a core
3 operating system volume that can be read but not written by the NC client and a the user
4 operating system volume that can be read and/or written by the NC client, wherein the
5 storage area associated with the NC client comprises a the shadow volume corresponding
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6 to the user operating system volume, and wherein ~~the step of~~ the NC client causing
7 information identifying a modification associated with the attempt to be recorded
8 comprises tracking modifications to the user operating system volume in the shadow
9 volume.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to ~~the step~~
2 ~~of booting from a boot image provided by an NC server~~, (1) the NC client initiating a
3 boot process by booting into a local memory of the NC client, (2) the NC client
4 transmitting a boot request to the NC server, and (3) the NC client receiving the boot
5 image from the NC server.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, ~~the step of booting from a boot~~
2 image provided by an NC server further includes the NC client locally executing the boot
3 image and mounting the one or more system volumes.

1 6. (Currently Amended) A network computer (NC) client comprising:
2 a bootstrapping means for booting from a boot image provided by an NC server,
3 the boot image including information identifying the location of one or
4 more user system volumes on the NC server, the one or more user system
5 volumes containing operating system software; and
6 a redirecting means, responsive to an attempt to modify the contents of the one or
7 more user system volumes, for causing information identifying a
8 modification associated with the attempt to be recorded on the NC server
9 separate from the one or more user system volumes in a ~~storage area~~
10 shadow system volume associated with the NC client.

1 7. (Original) The NC client of claim 6, further comprising a banding means for
2 incorporating the modification within one or more bands comprising a
3 predetermined number of blocks.

1 8. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
2 a network computer (NC) client booting from a boot image provided by an NC
3 server, the boot image including information identifying the location of
4 one or more user system volumes on the NC server, the one or more user
5 system volumes containing operating system software;
6 the NC client mounting the one or more user system volumes; and
7 in response to a write request from a file system of the NC client that contains a
8 modification to the one or more user system volumes, a block device
9 driver of the NC client redirecting the write request and causing
10 information identifying the modification to be recorded on the NC server
11 in a ~~storage area~~ shadow system volume associated with the NC client that
12 is separate from the one or more user system volumes.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
2 a network computer (NC) client booting from a boot image provided by an NC
3 server, the boot image including information identifying the location of
4 one or more user system volumes on the NC server, the one or more user
5 system volumes containing operating system software that has one or
6 more customizable attributes;
7 in response to a change to an attribute of the one or more customizable attributes,
8 the NC client causing information identifying the change to be recorded

9 on the NC server in a ~~storage-area~~ shadow system volume associated with
10 the NC client that is separate and distinct from the one or more user
11 system volumes.

1 10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
2 a network computer (NC) server providing a boot image to an NC client, the boot
3 image including information identifying the location on the NC server of
4 one or more user system volumes containing operating system software;
5 and
6 in response to a write request from the NC client that contains a modification to
7 the operating system software, the NC server recording information
8 identifying the modification on the NC server in a ~~storage-area~~ shadow
9 system volume associated with the NC client that is separate from the one
10 or more user system volumes.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising the NC server
2 maintaining the one or more user system volumes as a split operating system including a
3 single core operating system volume that can be read but not written by the NC client and
4 a user operating system volume that can be both read and written by the NC client.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~storage-area~~
2 ~~associated with the NC client~~ shadow system volume contains a non-persistent shadow
3 volume corresponding to the user operating system volume to which modifications to the
4 user operating system volume are recorded.

- 1 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising storing
2 information from the shadow system volume to a persistent, user-specific storage
3 area for use in a subsequent user session.
- 1 14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising
2 receiving information identifying the user at the NC server; and
3 providing the client with information indicative of the user's desktop environment
4 by accessing the persistent, user-specific storage area.
- 1 15. (Currently Amended) A network computer (NC) server comprising:
2 a boot server means for providing a boot image to an NC client, the boot image
3 including information identifying the location on the NC server of one or
4 more user system volumes containing operating system software; and
5 a storage management means for recording information identifying a modification
6 to the operating system software in a ~~storage area~~ shadow system volume
7 associated with the NC client that is separate from the one or more user
8 system volumes, the storage management means operative in response to a
9 write request from the NC client that contains the modification.
- 1 16. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data
2 representing sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions which, when
3 executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:
4 providing a boot image to a network computer (NC) client, the boot image
5 including information identifying a location on an NC server of one or
6 more user system volumes containing operating system software; and

7 in response to a write request from the NC client that contains a modification to
8 the operating system software, recording information identifying the
9 modification in a ~~storage area~~ shadow system volume associated with the
10 NC client that is separate from the one or more user system volumes.

1 17. (Currently Amended) In a network computer (NC) system, a method comprising:
2 an NC server providing a boot image to an NC client, the boot image including
3 information identifying the location on the NC server of one or more user
4 system volumes containing operating system software;
5 the NC client booting from the boot image provided by the NC server;
6 the NC client mounting the one or more user system volumes;
7 in response to a write request from a file system of the NC client that contains a
8 modification to the one or more user system volumes, a block device
9 driver of the NC client redirecting the write request to a ~~storage area~~
10 shadow system volume on the NC server that is associated with the NC
11 client and which is separate from the one or more user system volumes;
12 the NC server receiving the write request from the NC client; and
13 the NC server causing information identifying the modification to be recorded in
14 the ~~storage area~~ shadow system volume associated with the NC client.

1 18. (Currently Amended) A network computer (NC) system comprising:
2 an NC server configured to provide a boot image to one or more NC clients
3 associated with the NC system, the boot image including information
4 identifying the location on the NC server of one or more user system
5 volumes containing operating system software; and

6 an NC client coupled in communication with the NC server, the NC client
7 configured to receive and boot from the boot image, the NC client
8 including a file system process and a block device driver, the block device
9 driver configured to redirect write requests directed to the one or more
10 user system volumes to a ~~storage area~~ shadow system volume on the NC
11 server that is associated with the NC client and which is separate from the
12 one or more user system volumes.